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Ten fire dept. members recognized for decades of service

Ten members of the Chicopee Fire Dept. were recognized for multiple decades of service during a Nov. 17 ceremony at the Fire Department Headquarters on Church Street.

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Ten members of the Chicopee Fire Department were recognized for multiple decades of service during a Nov. 17 ceremony at the Fire Dept. Headquarters on Church Street.

Fire Chief Dan Stamborski personally congratulated each department member during Tuesday morning's affair.

"It shows the dedication of the men and women of this fire department, where in most professions people are stepping aside or moving on to different companies or businesses, and these men and women stay in this career for upwards of 30 years," said Stamborski.

Among those honored on Nov. 17 was a group of 20-year veterans, including firefighters Jay Furr, David Perry, Scott Loughman and James Pijar.

Dept. Chief Dan Dupre, Lt. Glennis Brown, Lt. Joseph Labonte, firefighter Daniel McQuade, Capt. Robert Andersen and Capt. Robert McQueen are all celebrating 30 years with the department.

The 30-year veterans who were celebrated on Tuesday share a special story that extends beyond Chicopee's city limits. All six men were originally hired by the Springfield Fire Department, where they were almost immediately laid off.

"It was a roller coaster. We were so happy to get hired in

See FIRE page 6

COMMUNITY

COVID-19 'spreading like wildfire,' says Health Director

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – In the City of Chicopee, the number of COVID-19 cases continues to increase. In response, all Chicopee Public Schools students returned to the fully remote learning format on Nov. 18.

"COVID is spreading through households like wildfire," said Health Director Lisa Sanders during a Nov. 12 press conference at City Hall. "The City of Chicopee continues to trend in a negative direction. We have received notification that even with the new metrics, we will be in the red."

On Monday afternoon, the city reported 321 open cases of COVID-19. Sanders noted in the same Nov. 16 report that it's the highest case count the city has ever seen.

Last weekend alone, 32 new cases were reported in Chicopee, as well as one COVID-19-related death. Since March, 1,142 Chicopee residents have tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

During the Nov. 12 press conference, Mayor John Vieau announced that the school district would return entirely to remote learning. Superintendent Lynn Clark explained that the difficult decision was necessary.

"The numbers have spiked to the point where it's safest for everyone to be at home," she said. "As a school district, we strongly believe that there is no replacement for in-person learning. However, we

See COVID-19 page 6

COMMUNITY

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Food Operations Manager Mike Cortis stands beside Communications and Engagement Officer Lillian Baulding inside the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts in Hatfield.

Food Bank of Western Mass anticipates winter rush

Monte's March Nov. 23 and 24 will raise money for meals

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

HATFIELD – At all times of the year, the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts serves as an invaluable community resource. With temperatures plummeting and COVID-19 case counts rising on a regional scale, the Hatfield facility enters the winter prepared to play a more crucial role than it ever has before.

"It is a challenge, but we do have a warehouse full of food," said Lilliam Baulding, the Food Bank's communications and engagement officer. "We have done a lot of pivoting since COVID started and are

See FOOD page 5

COMMUNITY

'Gala on Go' at Boys & Girls Club

See Page 2

SPORTS

Breton commits to Bryant

See Page 3

HOLIDAYS

Boy Scout Wreath Sale

See Page 3

SPORTS

Pacers pick up win.

See Page 7

INDEX

Opinion 4
Classifieds 10
Public Notices 8

‘Gala on Go’ showcases Boys & Girls Club

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – The Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee’s annual gala is one city tradition that would not bow to COVID-19. On Nov. 6, the Club hosted its “Gala on the Go,” which assumed the shape of a drive-through fundraiser and drew dozens of supporters to the exterior of the Meadow Street facility.

“We knew that an ordinary gala would not be possible this year, so we had to think of other options in order to host one of our largest fundraisers,” said Lynn Morrissette, the Club’s Marketing & Development Director.

In past years, the gala has been held at the Log Cabin in Holyoke, but the pandemic has rendered all large-scale gatherings implausible. Morrissette was not daunted by the loss of a venue and took on a creative approach.

“I wanted to find something that would keep everyone safe but that was a bit different than hosting an event that was all online,” she said. “CJC Productions helped to light up the building and give it a real gala-like feel. Being able to see supporters of the Club drive through was a highlight of the evening.”

The 2020 Club Youth of the Year, Caleb Fontaine, was honored during the evening, and Malar Patel, a Club alum who is now employed by Google, shared his story, Morrissette recalled.

“Malar Patel was able to speak about how the Club changed his perspective in life, and it was because he was a part of the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee,” she said.

A photo display of Club members entertained those who participated in the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee’s “Gala on the Go” on Nov. 6. *SUBMITTED PHOTO*

While members of the public are currently prohibited from entering the Club, those who arrived at the facility on Nov. 6 were given a taste of the programming still occured in-person this fall. A photo montage featuring club members was displayed on a large screen.

Boys & Girls Club employees hand out goodie bags to those who attended the “Gala on the Go,” on Nov. 6. *SUBMITTED PHOTO*

CJC Productions lit up the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee on the evening of Nov. 6 for the “Gala on the Go.” *SUBMITTED PHOTO*

Those who made a $50 donation to the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee on Nov. 6 received a drink and a dessert. *SUBMITTED PHOTO.*

“Being able to show people the fun times kids are having here through photos was an important piece as well,” said Morrissette.

The photo presentation can currently be viewed on the Club’s website.

All those who attended the Nov. 6 gala made a $50 donation to the Club and received an individual dessert and a mini bottle of champagne or wine.

Morrissette was considerably grateful to everyone who made the “Gala on the Go” a reality. She highlighted the importance of the yearly fundraiser.

“We know these are uncertain times for so many in the community and we are truly grateful to everyone who contributed by sponsoring, donating or purchasing auction items, making a donation or buying a ticket. Without all of the supporters of Gala on the Go, we would not be able to continue our mission at the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee allowing us to continue to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring responsible citizens.”

More information about the Club can be found at https://bgcchicopee.org/.

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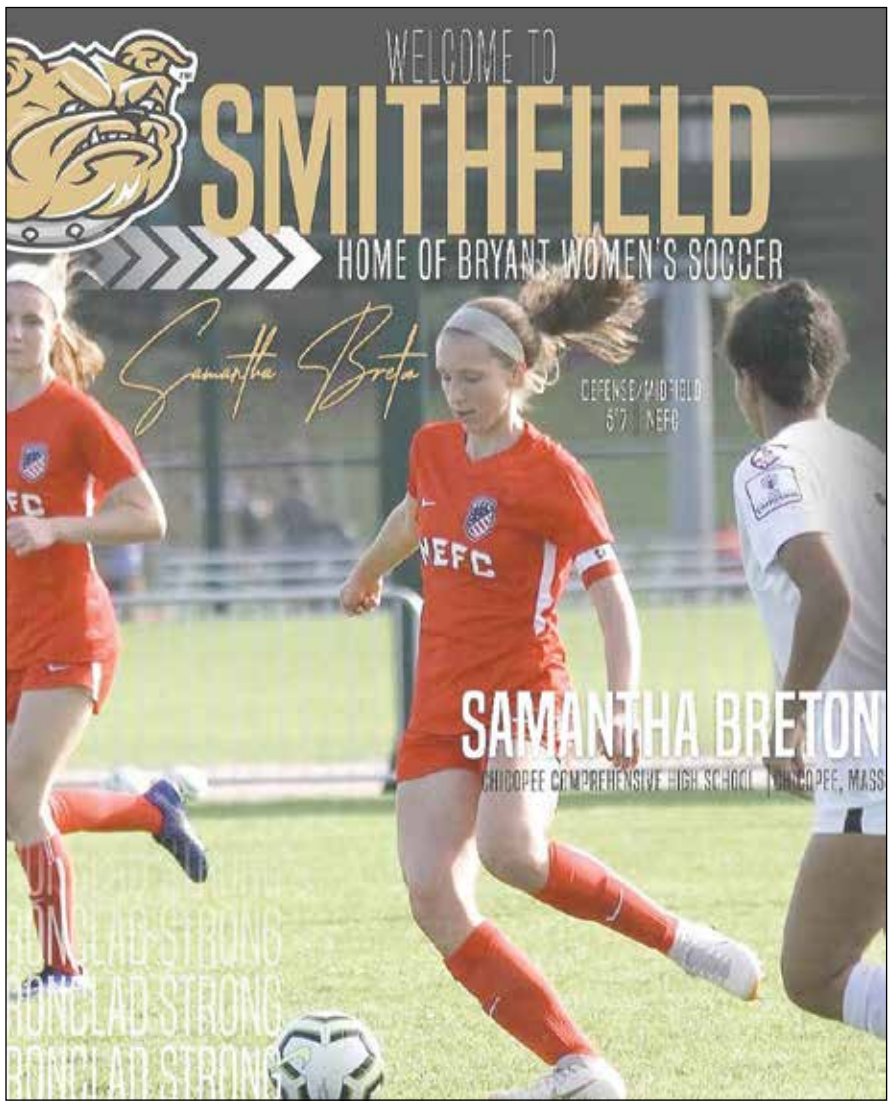
Samantha Breton of Chicopee to play soccer for Bryant University



Samantha Breton, a Chicopee resident and graduate from Chicopee Comprehensive High School, will continue her education while playing soccer for Bryant University.

Samantha Breton, a Chicopee resident and graduate from Chicopee Comprehensive High School, signs her National Letter of Intent to play soccer and continue her education at Bryant University.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS.

First Veterans Day after Soldiers' Home COVID-19 tragedy

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – November 11 was exceptionally difficult for the loved ones of the 76 veterans who died as a result of the Soldiers' Home tragedy.

On Veterans Day, ceremonies all throughout the state were dedicated to the men who succumbed to COVID-19 at the Holyoke facility earlier this year.

Local veterans are working to pick up the pieces and move forward in the wake of the tragedy. The Holyoke Soldiers' Home Coalition, formed in part to ensure that a similar event never unfolds, is lobbying for a much-needed addition to the building.

"We support the resolution to build a new and improved Soldiers' Home with better living conditions, as well as the adult daycare program that they've always wanted. We urge all citizens to pursue that and to contact their legislatures," said Brian Willette, Commander of the Massachusetts Military Order of the Purple Heart and one of the region's leading veteran advocates.

Several designs for a possible addition are already in play. A primary objective of the project would be to add on single rooms for the veterans.

"The Soldiers' Home, unfortunately, in its current state, has been really deemed not suitable for people with the way that they put them into rooms with the overcrowding," said Willette. "This new add-on would be an improvement, a renovation and an addition. It would be in the same location. No one wants it to leave Holyoke, and it won't under this proposal."

Willette relayed that Gov. Charlie Baker has committed to the project but added that "we're seeing it through because we've heard that before."

It will take that kind of fight to properly honor those who lost their lives as a result of the outbreak. It's equally as important that supporters remain vigilant in the months and even years that are ahead, said Willette.

Bennett Walsh, the former Superintendent of the Soldiers' Home, and Dr. David Clinton, the facility's former medical director, were arraigned on Nov. 5 and pled not guilty to 10 criminal neglect charges.

Their hearings were held during a remote session of Hampden Superior Court. If found guilty, Walsh, 50, and Clinton, 71, could spend decades in prison.

The Soldiers' Home primary building holds 247 beds for long term patients. The facility opened on April 27, 1952, and the coalition strives to keep in Holyoke for decades to come.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

COA: Health Holiday Eating Zoom workshop

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging will offer the Zoom program, "Healthy Holiday Eating" on Fri, Nov. 20 at 11 a.m.

The holidays are often filled with time-honored traditions that include some of everyone's favorite meals and foods. In this Zoom workshop, Ascentria Care Alliance will share ways to get creative in the kitchen to make healthy foods fun and festive while you celebrate the holidays. The Zoom link will be available on RiverMills Centers Facebook page or by calling (413) 534-3698.

Boy Scouts to hold wreath sale

CHICOPEE – Boy Scout Troop 138 of Chicopee will be holding its annual wreath sale Dec. 5 and 6 at St. Joan of Arc School on Grattan Street.

The sale will be held at 4:30 p.m. Saturday for that Mass, then all day Sunday from 8 a.m. on, or until they are gone. Price will be $10 for plain wreaths, $15 with a bow, and $30 for wreaths that have lights, bows, and a few decorations on them.

PNA Lodge 711 children's Christmas party canceled

CHICOPEE – Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the annual PNA Lodge 711 children's Christmas party, normally held on the first Sunday of December, has been canceled.

The election of officers will be held on Dec. 4 at 11 a.m. at the Polish Center at 33 South St., Chicopee. Any PNA Lodge 711 member wishing to attend must wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

The officers of PNA Lodge 711 of Chicopee wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy Holiday season. We hope to see you next year as we plan for our 2021 events. If you have any questions, please contact PNA Lodge 711 President, Gilbert Sherman at (413) 596-9578.

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SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Questions about registering for Social Security

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I have a big 65th birthday coming up mid-March and would like your advice on registering for Social Security and Medicare. I am now unemployed, but I am seeking another gig to get me to age 67 before taking Social Security. Signed: Wondering Senior

Dear Wondering: You do not need to "register" with Social Security in advance. You don't need to do anything with Social Security until you are ready to claim your benefits. Since you were born in 1956, your full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security purposes is 66 plus 4 months, and that is when you will be entitled to 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

But you can, if you wish, also wait beyond your FRA to get an even bigger benefit. For each month you delay after your FRA you'll earn Delayed Retirement Credits of .667%, which is 8% additional benefit for each year you wait. That can continue up to age 70 when your maximum benefit will be reached. In your case that would mean an age 70 benefit 29% more than your FRA benefit amount. But whenever you're ready, you can apply for Social Security online at www.ssa.gov/retire (you must first create your "My Social Security" account to apply online).

Medicare is an entirely separate program and, unless you have "creditable" employer healthcare coverage from a new job, you should enroll in Medicare a bit prior to your 65th birthday ("creditable" coverage is a group plan with at least 20 participants). This would be during your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period (IEP), which is a 7-month window starting three months before the month you turn 65 and ending 3 months after the month you turn 65. If you don't enroll in Medicare during your IEP and enroll later, and if you didn't have creditable employer healthcare coverage after age 65, you will be subject to a late enrollment penalty, which will permanently increase your Medicare Part B (and Part D) premiums.

Medicare Part B is coverage for doctors and outpatient services, and Part D is prescription drug coverage, both of which require a premium; Medicare Part A is hospitalization coverage which is free if you're eligible for Social Security. If you have "creditable" employer coverage when you turn 65, you can simply delay enrolling in Medicare Part B until your employer coverage is about to end, or until after it ends during an eight-month Special Enrollment Period during which you can enroll in Medicare Part B without penalty. But for Part D prescription drug coverage, you must enroll in a private plan within 63 days of your 65th birthday, or the end of your employer drug coverage, or you will incur a Part D late enrollment penalty for enrolling later. And remember that Medicare late enrollment penalties never go away – they are recurring for the rest of your life.

The bottom line is this: you don't need to pre-register for either Social Security or Medicare. You can simply enroll when you are ready for benefits to start (keeping in mind that for Medicare, you must have "creditable" alternative coverage after age 65 to avoid late enrollment penalties).

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit the AMAC website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email AMAC at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

GUEST COLUMN

Wishing for winter squash

You should never take anything for granted, especially when it comes to the garden's bounty. While it doesn't seem possible to have 50 winter squash one year and none just a couple years later, that is the predicament I found myself in this fall. I thought I did everything right! I planted the seeds a day or two shy of Memorial Day in a sunny spot that had been fertilized and composted. The seedlings came up strong. I left a floating row cover over them until they were ready to bust through, preventing cucumber beetles from nibbling when they were most vulnerable. But alas, the drought came and with it a dry well. The plants became stressed. Some developed vine borer and/or powdery mildew While it looked as if I would still get a harvest, this was just wishful thinking. Not long after setting the few fruits I had on the stone wall to cure, most began to rot. Once I realized that this is the way it was heading I gave the rest to the chickens; at least they got to enjoy them.

Gratefully my mom will provide the coveted butternut squash for Thanksgiving dinner. There is an easy way to prepare it without peeling and chopping! Simply wash the squash and cut it in half lengthwise. Then, scoop out the seeds and bake cut-side down on a greased cookie sheet or in a casserole dish. At 375 degrees, a butternut can take anywhere from 40 minutes to one hour to cook. Test by inserting a fork into the thickest part of flesh; if it goes in easily, it's done! Scoop out all of the flesh, even the caramelized parts, and mash with a fork or an immersion blender depending on how chunky (or not!) you like it. Season it to taste with cinnamon or better yet, pumpkin pie spice. And if you have a sweet tooth, try adding maple syrup or brown sugar; or even a bit of molasses. A little butter helps too!

Did you know that you can substitute home grown cooked winter squash for any recipe that calls for canned pumpkin, even pumpkin pie? Most folks know that it is squash inside the can anyhow….sweeter and less stringy than their pumpkin cousins. While butternuts are my favorite to grow, I do also like the 'Delicata' and 'Sweet Dumplings' for taste. They are rich with a depth of flavor. I just wish they were more productive. One plant produces three fruits at the most.

I think I am going to give squash growing a break for a year. Maybe the borers will go away and I'll be blessed with a good harvest sometime in the future. It would be really sad to think my squash growing days are over. That makes me think about what I should be grateful for this year, garden-wise. Kale, spinach and the cut flowers come to mind…ah, the flowers. I am especially excited about my growing dahlia collection. It would be fun to trade tubers and share the wealth!

But alas, I digress…Let's get back on topic. Don't feel the need to gobble up your butternut squash bounty in a hurry; this type of squash has been known to keep through spring and beyond if stored in a dry, 55-degree location. For me, the mudroom has always worked out well to store my winter squash. My mom, on the other hand, has good luck placing hers in trays off the floor in her basement. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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FOOD from page 1

meeting the needs. The entire team has pitched in. A lot of people are doing work that they weren't doing before. They're taking on extra assignments, and it's just getting done."

The Food Bank distributes much needed food to member agencies spread throughout Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties. The facility is vital to the existence of Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry on Pendexter Avenue in Chicopee, for one.

Established in 1982, the Food Bank serves dozens of independent pantries, meal sites, shelters and food assistance programs in western Massachusetts. The operation is a member of Feeding America, a national network of more than 200 food banks.

During the pandemic, the Food Bank's demand has increased dramatically. Baulding detailed the added responsibility that the facility has assumed over the past eight months.

"We have seen an increase in the amount of people who have needed our services because of COVID," said Baulding. "Many people have come in for the first time. They may have never thought that they'd ever need assistance from the Food Bank or a food pantry but they do because of job losses."

Baulding credited the community's support for keeping the Food Bank alive and thriving during a challenging year. The massive 35,000 square-foot warehouse that employs 45 serves as the headquarters for the entire operation and is currently abuzz with energy and productivity.

"People are working double-time, from the pickers who pick the food and put it together for our member agencies to the volunteers who are in our sorting room who are actually putting boxes of food together. It's really incredible," said Baulding.

One of the greatest obstacles that the pandemic has placed before the Food Bank is a dwindling amount of food donations. COVID-19 protocols prohibit the facility from accepting most food donations from the public.

For residents looking to contribute, monetary donations are highly

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts operates out of a 35,000 sq. ft. warehouse in Hatfield and serves dozens of member agencies scattered throughout the region.

significant and much needed. Baulding noted that monetary donations have allowed the Food Bank to make up for absence of food donations that it had been previously accustomed to receiving.

"It's critical because for every dollar donated, we can provide four full, healthy meals," said Baulding. "That means one individual could get four meals, and it's not just one part of the meal; it's the entire meal, or a family of four could have a dinner. It's critical, particularly at this time where so many of our neighbors are out of work or maybe their hours have been cut dramatically."

As temperatures continue to decrease, nutritious meals become more essential. On a regular basis, the Food Bank's Mobile Food Bank visits 27 locations in western Mass., distributing healthy food items.

"We want to help people stay healthy and strong as they are going through this difficult time," said Baulding.

On Nov. 23 and 24, the Food Bank will participate in Monte's March, a 43-mile masked march that will begin in Springfield and finish in Greenfield, covering three counties. Monte Belmonte, a radio personality for 93.9 WRSI, leads the annual initiative.

Those who participate in the march will push empty shopping carts along the entirety of the route to raise awareness about hunger in the region and funds to stop it in its tracks. This year, the fundraiser aims to raise $365,000, which is the equivalent of 4,000 meals per day for an entire calendar year.

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts has been making a difference throughout the region since 1982. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented the facility its greatest challenge.

"We pivoted this year, and it's going to work. It's going to be on a smaller scale, and we're asking people to donate what they can," said Baulding. "If they can't come out and march with us, perhaps they can virtually march online, or they can donate on those two days or online as well."

To register for Monte's March or donate to the Food Bank, visit https://www.foodbankwma.org/events/montes-march11/.

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Quantities are limited. Turley Publications reserves the right to end offer at any time. Payment will be returned if offer expires due to limited quantity being sold out or multiple names per letter. Sales are based on a first come first serve basis.

COA offering Weight Loss & Hypnosis Zoom Series

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging will be offering a Weight Loss & Hypnosis three-part series via Zoom. The Zoom series will take place on Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and Dec. 21 at 10 a.m.

This series will be led by Robin Davis and will incorporate mind and body techniques, including hypnosis. The cost is $25 for the series. Space is limited. Participants must register in advance by calling RiverMills Center and by providing an email address. Payment must be mailed or dropped off at RiverMills Center before the first session. Once payment is received, participants will be emailed the Zoom link for the series. Checks can be made out to Robin Davis. Call (413) 534-3698 for more information.

COVID-19 from page 1

have always said since this started that we are putting the safety and health of our students and staff first. That is what we are continuing to do."

As of Nov. 17, Chicopee Public Schools had one of the highest in-person learning percentages in Hampden County and possibly western Massachusetts, Clark said.

Chicopee students will not return to in-person learning prior to Dec. 7, and it is unclear if in-person learning will resume then.

Prior to the beginning of the school year, all students in the district were equipped with Chromebooks in preparation for the return to online learning. Entering the year, teachers were trained for such a development.

Vieau complimented the district on the success that it observed when in-person learning resumed in September. During a nine-week period, the district reported no more than eight positive cases.

Vieau went on to ask residents to work together and remain vigilant, as the city rides out the ongoing COVID-19 surge.

"There is some promise around the corner, as everyone knows about the talk about a vaccine," said Vieau. "I think that's something that we can all really appreciate, knowing that we've made it this far. This time of uncertainty is wearing on us, and to have a light at the tunnel is something very promising and something we can all look forward to."

Vieau added that the city is working to make more testing available and emphasized the need for rapid testing. He urged residents to wear masks in public, wash and disinfect their hands thoroughly and stay home if feeling ill.

As the press conference continued, Vieau shared another development pertinent to a vaccine. The city is developing its own task force to be ready when the COVID-19 vaccine arrives in Chicopee.

Vieau acknowledged that the city will follow state and federal guidelines when distributing the vaccine, but a task force will be ready to aid in the process.

"We have put together a vaccine task force that is led by the Health Department, Emergency Management and other members of our COVID Task Force team. We have a plan to distribute the vaccines when they're available so we can get people vaccinated. Please know that we do have a plan in place and are ready to implement it," said Vieau.

While at the podium, Sanders kindly asked residents to refrain from attending large gatherings this holiday season. Although it will be unusual, Sanders recommends staying home this December.

"Data is showing that gatherings are a contributing factor and increasing the spread," she said. "With the holidays right around the corner, we are asking that everyone follow Governor Baker's guidelines for private residences and limit the number of people in your home to 10," said Sanders.

Lastly, Sanders requested that residents respond to the city's attempts to conduct contract tracing. She stated that the city is not being "nosy," but instead doing its due diligence.

Vieau echoed the importance of the iniative.

"When you talk about community tracing, it's probably the most important component of getting this virus at bay," said Vieau. "I'm pleading with the residents of the City of Chicopee, if you get the call, please be truthful and help us. That's the way that we can control what I'm calling these 'clusters' that have developed in households across the city."

FIRE from page 1

Springfield, but as soon as we got out of drill school, we got laid off," said Dupre. "Chicopee was hiring and offered us a job. We came here, and the six of us who came from Springfield all stayed here. None of us went back."

McQuade recalled the difficult eight-month period that he endured in 1990 after losing his job with the Springfield department. When the Chicopee department extended an offer, he took it immediately and has been grateful ever since.

"These guys gave me a job so I told them I'd never leave. I'm proud to be 30 years in and am looking forward to retiring in two years," said McQuade, referring to the policy that enables firefighters to retire after 32 years of service.

Labonte remembers being laid off by the Springfield Department on account of Proposition 2½. He noted that, in the aftermath of statewide layoffs, the Chicopee Fire Department was the first local department to hire new members.

It was then that the six firefighters began a chapter that continues today.

"We had been trained in Springfield for 10 or 11 weeks, we were laid off, and Chicopee knew we had training. They retrained us for several weeks and trained us to be EMTs, which I loved. It's been a pleasure. I've been pretty blessed, and it's been a nice ride so far," said Labonte.

Much has changed since Labonte entered the Chicopee department 30 years ago. One facet of the job that remains the same is the importance of teamwork.

"We're dependent upon each other. We like people that are trained well because you don't want a slacker on your left or right because it could affect the outcome," he said.

McQuade feels similarly. Even as a veteran of the department, he enjoys arriving at the station each day – a reality he attributes to the department's family atmosphere.

"It's a great job. I love this job. You're never going to be rich, but it's a good living. It's a great city to work for. I love coming to work every day," said McQuade.

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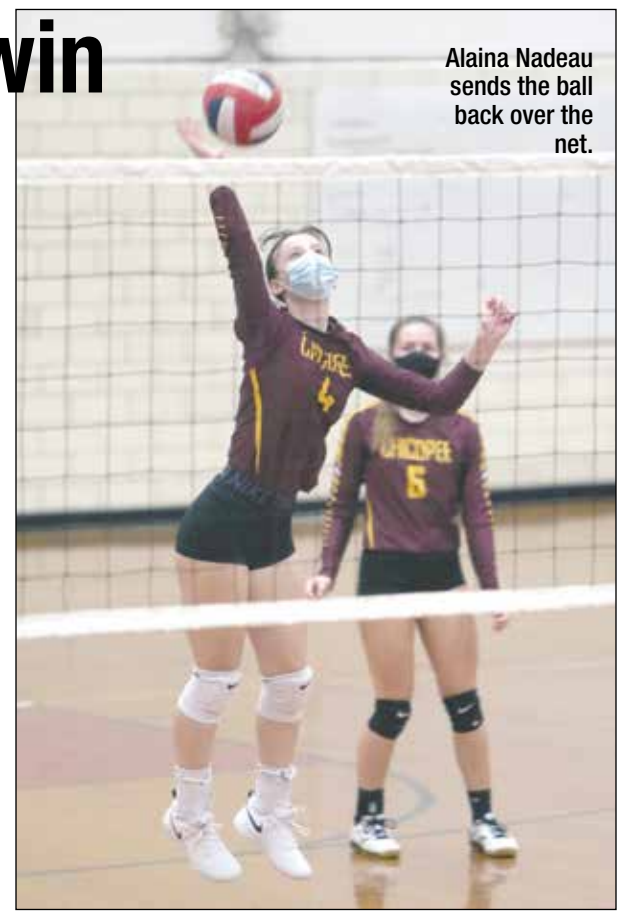
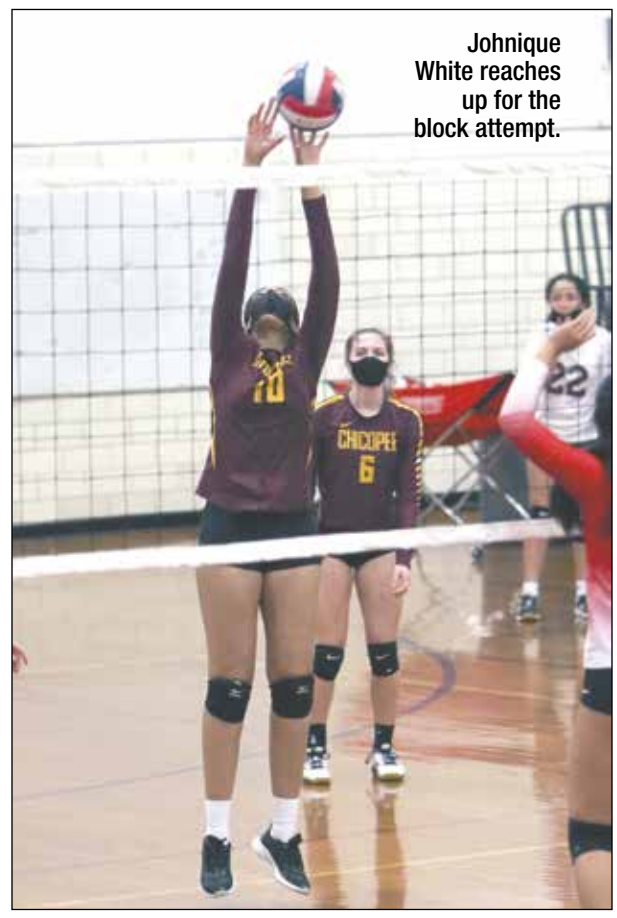
COMMUNITY

Pacers pick up win over Spartans

Kelsey Rau sends a set over the net.



Alaina Nadeau sends the ball back over the net.

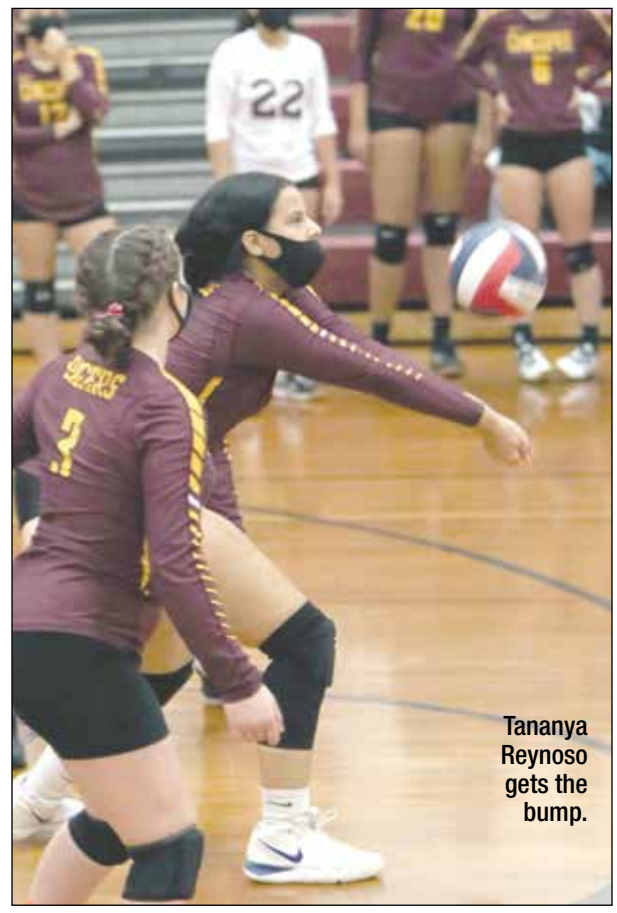


Johnique White reaches up for the block attempt.

EAST LONGMEADOW – On Nov. 9, Chicopee girls volleyball defeated East Longmeadow 3-1. They won the first, third, and fourth sets, 25-17, 25-11, and 25-23. East Longmeadow only won the second set 25-19. Alanys Torres led the team with 15 kills, while Alana Nadeau and Tananya Reynoso each registered 12 kills. Nadeau also had 35 assists.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Alanys Torres goes for a spike.



Tananya Reynoso gets the bump.

Jaydyn Smith sends the ball back over the net.

COMMUNITY

Fall season concludes for high school teams

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The Massachusetts High School fall season wraps up at the end of the week, it could be largely seen as a massive success as many teams were able to play in athletic contests for the first time in more than six months.

High school athletics were forced to shut down indefinitely following the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. For Massachusetts, it occurred during the semifinals of the state basketball tournament and all state semifinal winners were

See FALL page 8

COMMUNITY

Sport-specific guidelines still to come for winter sports

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The full Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs updated guidelines were released by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association were released late last week.

The MIAA and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has been working with the EEA obtain guidance and follow protocols in order to get student-athletes back on the field.

In August, the EEA deemed basketball, football, soccer, wrestling, la-

See WINTER page 8

MASCAC cancels winter sports season

WESTFIELD – The NCAA has released winter sport guidelines and the state of Massachusetts recently updated their winter sport policies. After an in-depth review of the information from the state and NCAA, consultation among the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Presidents, athletic directors, and athletic trainers and after exhausting all possibilities, including a review of the risks involved, the eight MASCAC Presidents have made the difficult decision to cancel all winter sports competition. This includes the sports of men's and women's basketball, men's ice hockey and men's and women's indoor track and field.

Similar to the fall sports, the state universities are planning to provide winter sport student-athletes with on-campus, in-person practices, conditioning and training opportunities throughout their traditional season to support their physical and mental well-being. These practice and training opportunities will not use a year of NCAA Eligibility and will be done in compliance with the campus, state, federal and NCAA COVID guidance and protocols.

"The MASCAC Presidents have been continuously observing the pandemic and guidelines from local, state, federal and NCAA officials which has led us to the decision to cancel winter sports competition during the spring semester," said Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts President James Birge, Chair of the MASCAC Council of Presidents.

Affiliates will be able to schedule nonconference contests at their discretion.

"We explored countless scenarios to find a safe path forward with the evolving recommendations and policies from the NCAA and the state for our winter sport student-athletes," said MASCAC Commissioner Angela Baumann. "After consultation with our medical staff and athletic directors, the MASCAC Presidents came to the conclusion there is not a way to ensure the safety of our student-athletes and staff with off campus winter competition, the risks are far too great."

Throughout the 2020-21 academic year, the MASCAC will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with special features, facts and trivia commemorating the event. Our conference has a rich history of success on the playing field and in the classroom. Over the academic year, the conference will be highlighting the student-athletes, teams, coaches, and administrators from the last 50 years.

Tryouts wrapping up for Pioneers

LUDLOW – WUP FC is excited to hold WINTER TRYOUTS for the 2020-2021 season. Tryouts are for Boys and Girls of all age groups (2012 - 2002 birth years). An open house for younger ages can be scheduled upon request.

Developmental Academy: players born in 2013-2015

First Kick: players born in 2016

Tryouts remaining will be held Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 at Lusitano and Ana Dias Middle fields. There are various tryout times for age groups and more information can be found at www.westernunitedpioneers.com. This registration session will allow you to complete contact information, and sign up for participation. Please read through each page carefully to ensure that all information is provided accurately.

We want to create the safest environment for your player due to COVID-19. Each player should bring water, a ball, shin guards, and wear a mask.

Help feature your student-athletes

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is nearing its end and Turley Publications has been all over the action.

But with this unpredictable season there have been temporary or in some cases, permanent stoppages in play, and we still want to help feature your athletes, especially those who are seniors this year.

We continue to ask for help on this season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere.

If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or photographs to share, we definitely want to hear from you.

If you don't see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us.

Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submitting.

Additionally, with the various senior games that have been held already or are still waiting to be held, we welcome submitted photos from those events and information about graduating seniors who participated in Fall 1 sports.

We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

FALL from page 7

considered co-champions and the state championship games were not played.

Following that, spring sports were delayed a few times, before sports and school overall, were called off for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, leaving spring athletes graduating with no final season.

With the pandemic still ongoing, but numbers of positive tests dropping to nearly 0.8 percent, high school sports were allowed to resume with modified rules, few fans, and a limited schedule that introduced the concept of bubble play, something that could be considered tough for Western Massachusetts teams, which are used to leagues that are put together based on level of competitiveness in order to maintain balance in most sports.

Most soccer, field hockey, and girls volleyball teams that participated had 10-12 contests scheduled, and for the most part, those contests were played.

Many schools developed a schedule that went from Oct. 1 to about Nov. 6. The final two weeks of the season were reserved for makeup games if schools had to shut down operations or for any other postponements.

While there has been a major spike of cases and several communities went "into the red" under the state metrics measuring coronavirus transmission risks, most schools were able to get most of, if not, their entire seasons played.

There were just a few schools with some remaining games this week, including Pathfinder, Ware, and Palmer. Quabbin, Quaboag, North Brookfield, and Tantasqua also had a few remaining contests to play this week after some Central Mass. teams had to shut down their play.

Athletes persevered through the modification of play. More than anything, they had to get used to ramping up to heavy running while wearing masks, a rule that had to be enforced strictly due to the insistence of local health directors in order to control communities from any major spreads.

While there have been major outbreaks the state government has attributed house parties, there were not any known cases of major outbreaks among high school sports teams. There were some isolated cases and games postponed due to contact tracing leading to some quarantining, but no major sickness among the teams.

The season was also made very successful by a coordinated effort among athletic directors to have proper protocols in place and staff to help enforce mask-wearing and social distancing. Soccer and girls volleyball had extra staff used to clean and sanitize game balls. Girls volleyball cycled in new balls on every play.

The season unfortunately concluded without any tournaments for the first time in years. This would have been the final year for state-sanctioned sectional tournaments. The state is still scheduled to go to a statewide tournament format next fall, when hopefully a full, normal season will be played.

WINTER from page 7

crosse, cheerleading, and ice hockey as high-risk sports.

As a result of that designation, contests in those sports were not allowed, and summer basketball and soccer leagues were completely shut down.

Soccer was able to return during fall sports with major modifications to play, especially a low-level of contact and mask-wearing by all participants.

But it is still unknown exactly what guidelines will be made in order to make basketball and ice hockey playable. As of now, the EEA is allowing Level 3 play, which permits contests between schools, but does not allow for tournaments. The MIAA officially cancelled the winter tournaments recently and the season is supposed to end on Feb. 21, 2020.

Basketball and hockey both involve sustained high contact. In the case of basketball, there is also a lot of sweating that spreads between players through close contact and the basketball itself. During the fall season, girls volleyball, the only indoor sport played during the season, rotated a new volleyball before each play. That may not be feasible in the faster moving game of basketball.

Wrestling will not be allowed to compete in school-to-school competition but will be allowed to practice. There can be some intrasquad contests among individual teams, but no other competitions will be allowed at this time. It is unknown if wrestling could take place in the bubble season, as football will be the prevalent sport during that season and many wrestlers also play football. .

Football is still scheduled to take place in late February through mid-April in what is being called "Fall 2" or a bubble season. Football and cheerleading are both supposed to take place in that season.

With talks of a vaccine now emerging during the past week, it is very possible that there could be modifications to each sports as the vaccine becomes more widely available and individuals are vaccinated for COVID-19.

The EEA is mandating face coverings for all sports with the exception of swimming. Swimming is also supposed to be able to take place, but with modifications made to limit the number of participants in a pool area.

The PVIAC only allowed home fans at outdoor contests during the fall with some schools allowing no fans at all for various reasons, including the ability to control attendance. A few schools allowed one guest per home athlete in volleyball, while most did not allow any fans. It is unknown whether any fans will be permitted at basketball and hockey contests.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20A0081AD
In the matter of:
Jayliah Marie Aponte-Dearborn
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, § 6

To: Wilfredo Jose Aponte

any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

Megan Marie Rodriguez of Chicopee, MA

Eric Rodriguez of Chicopee, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Jayliah Marie Rodriguez

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Springfield** on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: **12/22/2020**.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 10, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

11/20, 11/27, 12/04/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD20P1902GD
In the matter of:
ldalys Barrios
Of: Chicopee, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Dept Of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **ldalys Barrios** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Odalis Velez of Chicopee, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **11/30/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 30, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

11/20/2020

Notice of Sale
Gen Laws c.255, Sec. 39A

ChucksTowing, 78 West St., Chicopee, MA is holding a private sale **November 30, 2020 at 2 P.M.** to satisfy garage keepers lien for storage and towing charges and expenses notice of sale.

08 Honda Oddyssey Black
Vin:5FNRL38798B010878
Owner: UNKNOWN
Date of Tow 2-27-20

07 Ford Edge Orange
Vin:2FMDK46C77BB48610
Owner:UNKNOWN
Date of Tow 6-25-20

11/13, 11/20, 11/27/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD20P1940EA
Estate of:
CYNTHIA J HOLMES
Date of Death:
08/27/2020
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **CHERYL A HOLMES** of Shutesbury, MA.

CHERYL A HOLMES of Shutesbury, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

11/20/2020

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **December 4, 2020** at Interstate Towing, Inc. the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2000 Chevrolet Malibu
Vin: 1G1nd52j8y6200347
William Spradlin
100 Main St
Blandford, Ma 01008

2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer
VIN: 1GNDT13S222194198
Ramone Molina
435 Lincoln St
Lowell, Ma 01852

2002 Ford Explorer
VIN: 1FMZU73K32UD58024
Elvin Fidel Morales Ramirez
67 Northampton Ave
Springfield, Ma 01109

2003 Volkswagen Gti
VIN: 9BWDE61J434041490
Anthony Arbuzov
27 Sycamore St
Westfield, Ma 01085

2004 Bmw 330Xi
VIN: WBAEW53434PN34278
Diamante Seguin
484 Chicopee St
Chicopee, Ma 01020

2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1J4GW48S64C351262
Timothy Hallenbeck
101 Meadow St
Westfield, Ma 01085

2004 Saab 9-3
VIN: YS3FB45S241061493
Ryan Mcbring
20 N Lost Acres Rd
East Hartford, Ct 06027

2005 Honda Pilot
VIN: 2HKYF18535H572245
Neemi Rodriguez
1524 Corbin Ave
New Britain, Ct 06053

2006 Infiniti M35
VIN: JNKAY01F56M256859
Amanda Matos
134 Union St Apt 56
Westfield, Ma 01085

2006 Mazda 6
VIN: 1YVHP80D465M30796
Emily Maysonet
659 High St
Holyoke, Ma 01040

2006 Nissan Murano
VIN: JN8AZ08W16W521094
Wanda Lee Maldonado
32 Rosengarten Dr
Waterbury, Ct 06704

2007 Dodge Caliber
VIN: 1B3HB28B37D549663
Ricky Bairos/Lucia Gageiro-Bairos
23 Vinal Street
Hudson, Ma 01749

2008 Chevrolet Impala
VIN: 2G1WT58N481218322
Christopher Wilson
13 Dunster Dr
Hanover, Ma 03748

2008 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL24E78C220717
Anthony Ray Burge
13 Mystic St
Springfield, Ma 01109

2009 Nissan Murano
VIN: JN8AZ18WX9W154738
Letty Muniz
238 E Main St
Chicopee, Ma 01013

2009 Porsche Cayenne
VIN: WP1AB29P99LA40744
Gurbaksh S Ahuja
1 Rustic Ct
Plainview, Ny 11803

2009 Suzuki Sfv650
VIN: JS1VP55A092100868
Joseph Smith-Ortiz
53 Hampden St
West Springfield, Ma 01089

2010 Dodge Avenger
VIN: 1B3CC4FD4AN175900
Baystate Gas Company
995 Belmont St
Brockton, Ma 02301

2010 Eton Matrix
VIN: RK15VA0E0AA000600
Unknown

2010 Toyota 4Runner
VIN: JTEBU5JR6A5004254
Noah Ruggles-Lehman
100 Melville Ave
Boston, Ma 02124

2013 Audi A5
VIN: WAUCFAFR8DA060404
Mathew Malloy
495 Southwick St
Feeding Hills, Ma 01001

2014 Freightliner Cascadia 125
VIN: 3AKJGLBG7ESFK0620
Aas Trucking Llc
1400 Wantagh Ave # 203
Wantagh, Ny 11793

2014 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: 5NPDH4AE3EH488222
Destiny Santos
43 Silver St
Springfield, Ma 01107

2014 Kymco Agility 50
VIN: LC2U6A025EC001364
Carlos Montitjo
15 Narragansett St
Springfield, Ma 01104

2015 Doonan Base
VIN: 1D9BG5322F1609721
Little G Enterprise Llc
12211 Bernard Pkwy
Gulfport, Ms 39503

2015 Harlet-Davidson Fltrxs
VIN: 1HD1KTM16FB623508
Mark Wood
1198 Amostown Rd
West Springfield, Ma 01089

2016 Dodge Grand Caravan
VIN: 2C4RDGBG2GR122308
Julia C Medina
290 Broadway
Methuen, Ma 01844

2016 Tao Tao
VIN: 19NTEACT4H1050160
James Greene
16 Rimrock Rd
Belchertown, Ma 01007

2017 Gmc Acadia
VIN: 1GKKNSLS1HZ243931
Allen Rosario
143 Woodlawn St
Springfield, Ma 01108

2017 Nissan Pathfinder
VIN: 5N1DR2MM5HC641473
Michael Poindexter
23 Mort Vining Rd
Southwick, Ma 01077

2018 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCV1F32JA054516
Olivo Hamilton Polanco
50 Warren Street
Peabody, Ma 01960

2018 Honda CR-V
VIN: 7FARW2H51JE081552
Dante Brown
130 Winterlake Dr Apt 30L
Midlothian, Vi 23113

2019 Chevrolet Malibu
VIN: 1G1ZE5SX6KF118725
Dennis J Molloy
15 Tom St
Feeding Hills, Ma 01030

2020 Landrover Discovery
VIN: SALRG2RV3L2424108
Ean Holdings Llc
1512 W 4T St
Mansfield, Oh 44906

Highland Trailer Pfr 13-16
VIN: 2H9BT1DZ5WR003563
Gurbaksh Ahuja
1 Rustic Ct
Plainville, Ny 11803

11/20, 11/27, 12/04/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P1899EA
Estate of:
Genevieve A Taylor
Date of Death: 11/23/2017
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

A Petition for **Formal Determination of Heirs** has been filed by Hann Realty LLC of West Springfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/04/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 30, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

11/20/2020

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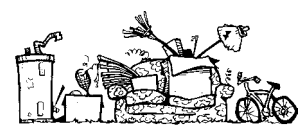

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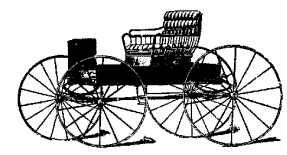

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25 Base Price $28.50	26 Base Price $29.00	27 Base Price $29.50	28 Base Price $30.00
29 Base Price $30.50	30 Base Price $31.00	31 Base Price $31.50	32 Base Price $32.00
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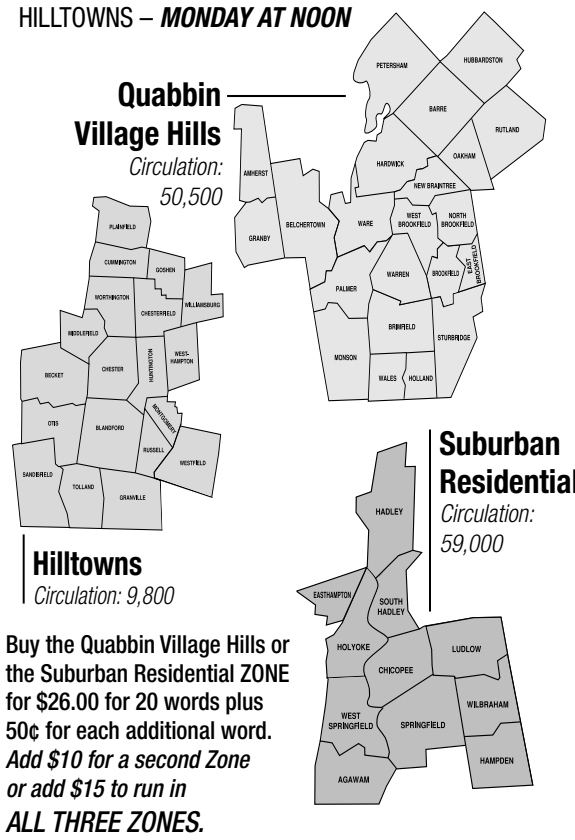

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Ocean State Job Lot announces return of 'Buy, Give, Get' to benefit veterans

Ocean State Job Lot (OSJL), a privately-held, family-operated discount retail chain with 143 stores in New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, is pleased to announce the return of its annual 'Buy, Give, Get' program to benefit veterans in need.

Through the program, which began Oct. 29, any customer who buys a warm winter coat at OSJL for $40 and gives it back to the store as a donation to veterans in need will get a $40 Crazy Deal Gift Card to be used for a future purchase online or at any Ocean State Job Lot store.

During its last 'Buy, Give, Get' program in 2019, the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation donated more than 30,000 winter jackets to veterans. This year, approximately 40,000 winter coats will be available for purchase to distribute to those in need through OSJL's partner organizations.

"What started out as a 600-coat test just a few years ago has blossomed into one of the largest programs of its kind serving veterans in need across the region," said David Sarlitto, executive director of the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation. "Last year, our customers helped us to donate warm winter coats to approximately 35,000 veterans, and we hope to exceed that this year."

The coats will be distributed at the conclusion of the program to veterans' organizations in partnership with a multi-state network of more than 50 veteran support agencies, organizations, assistance programs and action groups serving New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

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